

## Message Text

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14-S  
ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-15 SAM-01 SP-02 INR-07 ISO-00 PM-04 EUR-12

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R 040953Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3559  
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 0200

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, SO, FT, BT  
SUBJECT: SOVIET VIEWS OF DJIBOUTI AND ETHIOPIA

REF: MOGADISCIO 153 (NOTAL

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH DCM ON FEB 2, SOVIET AMBASSADOR SAMSONOV HAS PROVIDED US WITH ANALYSIS OF TFAI PROBLEM WHICH IS SIMILAR IN MANY DETAILS TO THAT GIVEN BY SIAD LESS THAN A WEEK EARLIER IN OUR TALKS OF JANUARY 27 (MOGADISCIO 153).

2. SAMSONOV SAID THAT SIAD HAD NO RPT NO INTENTION OF ANNEXING TFAI BUT WAS INTERESTED SOLELY IN PERSUADING FRENCH TO GRANT GENUINE INDEPENDENCE TO PEOPLES OF THE TERRITORY. IF GOF FAILED TO MEET LEGITIMATE ASPIRATIONS OF SOMALI AND AFAR POPULATIONS OF TERRITORY, HOWEVER, INTERNAL TROUBLES WOULD INEVITABLY RESULT. TFAI PEOPLES WOULD MOST CERTAINLY REJECT AREF-LED INDEPENDENT GOVT AND HE PREDICTED THAT LIBERATION STRUGGLE WITHIN TERRITORY WOULD BE SUPPORTED BY QTE ALL PROGRESSIVE PEOPLES OF WORLD UNQTE.

3. SAMSONOV SAID FURTHER THAT SIAD WILLING TO PROVIDE SOMALI GUARANTEE FOR CONTINUED ETHIOPIAN ACCESS TO DJIBOUTI PORT AND RAILROAD. IN TERMS ALMOST IDENTICAL TO THOSE USED BY SIAD  
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SIX DAYS EARLIER, SAMSONOV SAID THAT IT WAS ILLOGICAL AND

UNREALISTIC FOR OBSERVERS TO BELIEVE THAT SOMALIA HAD ANY INTENTIONS OF DENYING PORT TO ADDIS, SINCE ECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF TERRITORY DERIVED ALMOST WHOLLY FROM PORT AS ETHIOPIAN ENTREPOT.

4. SAMSONOV CHARACTERIZED LEADERS OF SOMALI COAST LIBERATION FRONT AS QUASI-PROGRESSIVE AND SUGGESTED THAT THEIR ALLEGIANCES TO FRANCE WERE STRONGER THAN MANY THOUGHT. HE THOUGHT SIAD HAD DONE AS MUCH AS HE COULD LEGITIMATELY DO IN ASSURING PARIS THAT HE HARBORED NO AGGRESSIVE INTENTIONS OR EXPANSIONIST AMBITIONS IN TFAI. HE HAD TOLD FRANCE THAT HE WOULD RESPECT SOVERIGNTY OF TRULY AUTONOMOUS TFAI STATE BUT HE WOULD NOT RPT NOT ENDORSE FRENCH PUPPET ALI AREF. USSR HOPED OF COURSE THAT PARIS WOULD ACT IN A RESPONSIBLE FASHION IN TFAI AND PROVIDE INDEPENDENCE IN WAY WHICH WOULD ASSURE PEACE AND STABILITY IN HORN.

5. ASKED ABOUT SIAD'S OVERTURES TO ETHIOPIA, SAMSONOV SAID THAT HE KNEW OF TWO SECRET MISSIONS DISPATCHED BY SIAD TO ADDIS TO STRAIGHTEN OUT BILATERAL PROBLEMS BUT THAT VISITS HAD NOT RPT NOT BEEN SUCCESSFUL. SAMSONOV DENIED THAT RECENT INCIDENTS IN OGADEN INDICATED THAT SIAD HAD IN ANY WAY ALTERED HIS HANDS OFF POLICY IN ETHIOPIA. RECENT INCIDENTS IN OGADEN -- FIRE-FIGHTS, ARMED CLASSES, ETC. -- WERE NOT RPT NOT A NEW PHENOMENON BUT CONTINUATION OF AGE-OLD TRIBAL AND ETHNIC RIVALRIES, LOCAL JURISDICTIONAL CONFLICTS BETWEEN SOMALI AND ETHIOPIAN POLICE WHICH HAD BEEN ENDEMIC IN REGION FOR YEARS. HE CAUTIONED THAT THOSE INCIDENTS SHOULD NOT RPT NOT BE INTERPRETED TO MEAN THAT SIAD HAD CHANGED HIS TACTICS OR INTENDED TO CAUSE TROUBLE FOR EPMG IN ADDIS.

6. SAMSONOV SAID THAT EVENTS IN ETHIOPIA MOVING IN A WAY FAVORABLE TO INTERESTS OF PROGRESSIVE NATIONS, LIKE SOMALIA, AND HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT OVER LONG TERM THE TWO COUNTRIES WOULD PEACEFULLY RESOLVE THEIR MANY PROBLEMS.  
LOUGHRAN

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